

**REMARKS****The Office Action**

The Office Action mailed December 20, 2005 has been carefully considered. For the reasons set forth hereinafter, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the claim rejections and the allowance of all claims remaining in the application, namely, claims 6-12, 17, 18, 20-25, 31-42, 44, and 61-70.

Published application US 2004/0149798 is an improper prior art reference for citation under 35 U.S.C. §102. In this respect, the effective date of the citation is the filing date of January 22, 2003 for the claimed priority to US provisional application Serial No. 60/441,350. This date is subsequent to applicants effective filing date of July 15, 2002 based on their filing of provisional patent application Serial No. 60/395,779. A copy of applicants amendment to claim priority based on the latter provisional application is submitted herewith together with a copy of applicants self-addressed return postcard indicating receipt of the amendment in the Patent and Trademark Office on September 12, 2003.


**CONCLUSION**

It is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance which is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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2-27-06  
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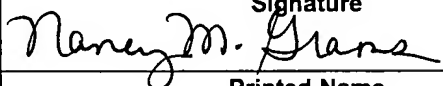
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, I certify that this Amendment is being

- ☒ deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail, addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.
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<b>Date</b> February 27, 2006	<b>Printed Name</b> Nancy M. Grams

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